

REMARKS**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 2, 4, 6, 9-14 and 20-30 are allowed. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17-19 and 31 are rejected.

No claim amendments are filed herein. No new matter is presented and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17-19 AND 31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY YAMAMOTO (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,923,337)

The rejections of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17-19 and 31 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In the Response to Arguments on page 5 of the Action, the Examiner states that Yamamoto teaches a plurality of unit image groups, each of the plurality of unit image groups being made up of a plurality of sequential images, and being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer, as recited in independent claim 1 for example, citing Yamamoto column 2, lines 24-26 and Fig. 23.

As the Examiner suggests, the cited portion of Yamamoto (Fig. 23 and the corresponding description) discusses idle patterns (e.g., Fig. 23) and when there is no voice input for a short predetermined time, a character's head is tilted in a predetermined way, for example. P14, P11 and P17 show the aforementioned head tilt. (See also Yamamoto, column 14, lines 20-44).

After a longer period of time without voice input, some cheek movements and certain body movements, such as a foot tapping, are included in addition to the idle pattern discussed above. (See Yamamoto, column 14, lines 45-57).

These idle patterns appear to be made up of single images. For example, frame P21 can be connected to frames P22 and P23 to show eye movements. It appears that the Examiner considers connecting images P14, P11 and P17 (see Fig. 23 of Yamamoto) as a unit image group showing one communication information (in this case, eye blink movement). However, in Yamamoto, each image that is connected to another image is made up solely of a single image, not a plurality of sequential images. Hence, Yamamoto merely generates one sequential image by connecting the single images.

In contrast, embodiments of the present invention are characterized by connecting a plurality of unit image groups, where each is made up of a plurality of sequential images. Further, each of the unit image groups is guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer. Although Yamamoto teaches one unit image group indicating one

communication information to a viewer (i.e., a group of frames showing eye blink movement), Yamamoto does not discuss *connecting a plurality of unit image groups* where each of the unit image groups is guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Examiner is directed to Fig. 6 of the present application, which clearly depicts aspects of embodiments of the present invention. Fig. 6 shows that each of the plurality of unit image groups is made up of a plurality of sequential images and is guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a view; and a sequential image is generated by connecting the plurality of unit image groups.

According to embodiments of the present invention, it is possible to generate a sequential character image that can positively convey the desired communication information to the viewer (e.g., the user), by carrying out a simple editing process. Since each unit image group is guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to the viewer, it is unnecessary to judge, during the debugging process, whether or not the communication information which is indicated by the unit image group is actually correctly conveyed to the viewer (see page 16, line 30, to page 17, line 2, of the present specification).

On the other hand, according to Yamamoto, the programmer must manually connect the single images to generate one sequential image, in such a manner that the sequential image appears naturally continuous and the sequential image is guaranteed to convey the desired communication information to the viewer. However, such a manual operation is time consuming and difficult. Further, in order to convey a plurality of communications, Yamamoto must generate one sequential image for each communication information, which makes the operation even more time consuming and difficult.

The present invention, recited in independent claim 1, for example, is directed to solving the aforementioned problems of the system of Yamamoto, using the features recited in independent claim 1 discussed above.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art. The other pending independent claims recite similar features to independent claim 1 and, thus, it is respectfully submitted that all pending independent claims patentably distinguish over the prior art for at least the reasons provided herein. The pending dependent claims inherit the patentability of their respective base claims and, thus, it is further submitted that the dependent claims also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

REQUEST FOR EXAMINER INTERVIEW

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to schedule an Examiner interview at the earliest possible convenience, in order to discuss the distinguishing features of the present invention over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims herein patentably distinguish over the rejections and the art of record and, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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